

SHIELDED-ERGONOMIC MICROSCOPE STAGES

ABSTRACT

Advanced microscope stages are shielded from dust and debris collecting on
5 components by placing all or virtually all stage components below the stage floor. The shielded
stages comprise a stage having a top side and a bottom side, an opening in the stage floor in the
form of a linear slot, a carriage positioned adjacent to the slot for movement in a direction
generally parallel with the slot, drive means for the carriage and stage, specimen retaining means
on the top side of the stage, and means for affixing the specimen retaining means to the carriage
10 through the opening in the stage floor. The advanced microscope stages may also have more
ergonomic structural features with rounded rims and corners for greater user comfort.